



DRAFT

**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, January 17, 2006 • 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Mayor's Office, City Hall



MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Someireh Amirfaiz, Tim Ceis, Cheryl Chow, Councilmember David Della, Kris Hildebrandt, Antonio Hopson, Marie Kurose, Raj Manhas, John Pehrson, Debra Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica de Barros (Office for Education), Carla Bryant (OFE), Donnie Grabowski (OFE), Sonja Griffin (HSD), Terry Hayes (HSD), Donna Hudson (Parks), Patricia Lee (City Council), Patricia McInturff (Human Services Department), Holly Miller (OFE), Thelma Payne (SPS), Patti Petesch (Parks), Robin Pfoman (Public Health), Janet Preston (SPS), Liezl Tomas Rebugio (HSD), Mary Jean Ryan (Office of Policy & Management), Sid Sidorowicz (OFE), Yvonne Sanchez (Dept of Neighborhoods), Anne Shields (Public Health), Adie Simmons (SPS), Kristi Skanderup (Middle School Support Consultant), Cheryl Swab (Finance), David Washington (HSD), Billie Young (HSD).

Deputy Mayor Time Ceis called the meeting to order. The minutes from the November 11, 2005 meeting were approved with no objections.

Jessica de Barros presented the draft Levy Baseline Report. She explained the purpose of the report is to establish the baseline from which we will measure academic improvements from Levy investments. There will also be an interim report issued in April showing progress to date. J. de Barros noted what's working well, areas that need more work, and issues to pay attention to in the future.

J. de Barros presented the baseline information for the Early Learning Networks. A. Hopson asked what are the siting difficulties with pre-k programs. H. Miller noted there was a change in SPS policy after HSD and individual schools had been following the current procedures. The change was dictated in part by the potential for school closures. There is a new coordinator developing a siting policy and procedure for SPS.

T. Ceis asked for an explanation about the failure to implement the DIAL-3 school readiness assessment this year and how we will compensate. H. Miller explained that after significant training and lead time, teachers balked at applying the assessment. The tool will be used at the end of the year and applied to a sample of children who did not attend Levy pre-schools for a comparison group. The city is working with the new SPS early learning coordinator on an approach. J. Pehrson asked that the baseline report note where such partnerships are necessary to measure outcomes.

R. Manhas and C. Chow asked how the DIAL3 corresponds with current practice, and whether a shortened version could be used to reduce impact on teacher time. H. Miller responded that the DIAL 3 is a normed tool and cannot be altered without affecting its reliability. The current

tool used by SPS is not normed. C. Chow asked if the DIAL-3 is intended to replace current practice. H. Miller responded that is our hope, but it cannot be forced on SPS. Ideally, the tool will be integrated into the system and not be used just for Levy children.

M. Kurose asked if additional resources were provided to support teachers who were applying the DIAL 3. H. Miller responded that training was provided, but the City cannot afford to pay for teacher time. The City is concerned about the financial bow wave of this practice. If the DIAL 3 replaced the current SPS tool, there should be no additional cost.

M. Kurose asked about bilingual status for ELN youth. S. Sidorowicz explained that demographic information of ELN children is limited until youth enter Seattle Public Schools. B. Young noted that the ELN programs implemented so far have focused on bilingual youth, particularly Latino families.

J. de Barros then described baseline data for the Family Support Worker Program. D. Della asked what strategies were being used for students who had not passed the WASL. J. de Barros responded that the purpose of the program is to provide individualized support for these children.

J. de Barros noted that the FSW program already appeared to be exceeding the target for students passing the math and reading WASL. T. Ceis asked how targets will be adjusted. H. Miller responded that targets would be adjusted as part of the budget process. M. Ryan noted that the City did not have the ability to review this baseline data before. This is a new capability for the Levy. P. McInturff asked since the targets are already being exceeded for the FSW program, should caseloads be reduced and clients better targeted. T. Payne responded that FSW caseloads and WASL results appear high because FSWs were working with children getting them ready for school, however these are not FSW focus families.

J. de Barros described the Out-of-School Time and Middle School Support baselines. D. Sullivan asked for more information about the concerns Community Learning Centers (CLCs) have about Student Learning Plans (SLPs). H. Miller said that some CLCs feel they could be a bridge between schools and families. They believe they could improve family engagement in the SLPs.

D. Sullivan asked why targets are so low for these programs. J. de Barros responded that the City did not have baseline information before and these targets will be adjusted. H. Miller pointed out that there were many concerns about the targets since funding is tied to achieving them. A. Hopson asked if targets would continue to increase. T. Ceis responded that there will be more meaningful targets after this first year. He agreed it was reasonable to set the targets low without baseline information since funding is at stake. There is a consensus that targets should be raised.

J. Pehrson asked why there are 8 CLCs, and how they were chosen. S. Sidorowicz responded that these sites were, and still are, receiving funds from other sources. The City is leveraging these other funds at the existing sites. One new site, Madison Middle School, was added because it is an Innovation Site.

J. de Barros then reviewed baseline information for the Seattle Team for Youth Program. M. Kurose noted that returning to school is dependent on school administrators, and asked how STFY is working with them. T. Hayes responded that case managers work with schools on reentry plans. If these are unsuccessful, the case manager works with the Interagency schools. M. Kurose also asked if discipline was used in setting STFY targets. T. Hayes responded that it was not.

J. de Barros reviewed Health baseline information. A. Hopson asked if Health programs would be cut if they did not meet their academic targets. H. Miller pointed out that these programs have health related outcomes as well as academic ones.

M. Ryan reviewed the activities of the Superintendent's Committee on Excellence in Education. She stated that the committee looked at improving academic focus of the school district as well as improving financial stability. They are calling for more rigor in High School; quality core curriculum in all classrooms; curriculum aligned across schools; targeted class size reduction, especially at transition grades; remedial education; and high teacher and principal quality.

On the financial side, the committee recommends benchmarking costs compared to other districts; closure of some schools; transportation and administrative cost reductions; increase in revenue from management of real estate and improved philanthropic giving; and increased market share. The committee also expects an increase in state funding this year.

D. Della asked if the committee is being successful linking financial changes with academic outcomes. Are freed resources being targeted to schools in need? M. Ryan responded the committee hopes SPS adopts their core recommendations which emphasize leading with academic success. School quality should lead all decisions.

J. Pehrson asked if the committee is expected to have an ongoing role. M. Ryan replied they are working on that recommendation now.

B. Young and David Washington presented the proposed plan for the Compensation Project for the Early Learning Networks. The project is expected to support high quality pre-school education for children age 0-3 in ELN pre-school sites. The project provides incentives for teachers to improve quality by increasing training, and reducing teacher turnover. The goal is to have 42 teachers involved by the end of the year. Quality will be measured by classroom scores and reduced turnover. HSD is using outcome based contracts for this project. P. McInturff explained the match requirements on providers. The amount they receive from the city will not grow year to year.

H. Miller reviewed the City's proposal for the use of Levy II fund balance. A. Hopson asked if some funding could be used to support implementation of the DIAL 3. H. Miller replied that this will be taken up as a mid-course correction. C. Chow recommended providing support to schools for the DIAL 3 implementation.

H. Miller asked that comments about the baseline report be sent within the next two weeks. (A follow-up e-mail was sent asking for all comments by January 31.)

The meeting was adjourned.